

January 2020 Newsletter

Welcome back wonderful Our School families. We hope that you enjoyed your break with your family. We want to say a huge thanks again for all your kindness and generosity this holiday season, you really made us feel special, loved and valued!

What a year 2019 was: we welcomed new additions to the Our School family, we erected a pergola and playhouse for the toddlers. We were visited by the Police, Fireman, and many families and staff who helped during our yard workdays, celebrations, school functions, fundraisers and play. So many kiddos met their developmental milestones and cemented relationships that will last a lifetime. Thank you all for being such a special part of Our School Preschool.

Our preschoolers are going to begin their playwriting and organizing task for this year's 10th annual play fundraiser. The kids write the play, create the characters, design costumes and perform the play for a public audience on April 30th, 2020. This is Our School's largest fundraiser and we need all the help we can get. We have plans in the works to improve our preschool playground equipment (a large undertaking). We are looking to get sponsors from local area businesses as well as auction items. Please join the **Parent Advisory Committee** to attain our goal of the most successful play/fundraiser in the history of Our School. We will **meet on Thursday the 16th of January at 5pm at Our School** to begin planning and asking for sponsors and donations. If you have someone you know who would like to donate or be a sponsor, please let Megan know. We want to keep this as organized as possible to avoid embarrassing double requests from the same businesses.

Our toddlers have the pleasure of getting to know Ms. Bailey while Ms. Esme is still around. We have been talking to all our kiddos about the change and reminding them of our song "make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other is gold." It is always hard to say goodbye, but we know Ms. Esme's friendship will last a lifetime!

The infants continue to grow, develop, and rock those milestones. Mrs. Isis has prepared a lot of fun activities for our youngest learners.



January 2020 Newsletter



PARENT TIPS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (HAPPINESS!)

One of our goals at Our School is to empower your child. We want children to feel that they are capable people, and to feel confident in meeting their needs in the classroom. Allowing children a measure of control in their lives benefits them on many levels. One way with which we achieve this autonomy is by setting children up for success. The smiles on their faces make these simple suggestions worth it!

CLOTHING & OUTDOOR WEAR

Shoes - Please send your child to school in shoes he or she can put on unassisted. Send shoes that slip on, zip, or use Velcro if your child does not yet tie shoes independently.

Clothing - because of the play options available in our yard, children will get dirty and may get wet. Please do not send your child to school in clothing which cannot serve as 'play clothes.' After all, we are a play-based learning program! Also, articles in which your child is unable to use the toilet independently are strongly discouraged.

Fun Fact - In the winter, there can be over 200 items of outdoor gear in the preschool cubbies. This is not even including the extra change of play clothes for each child. Please clearly LABEL every item from home!

Suggested cubby items - DAILY

- Full change of play clothing
- Weather-appropriate layers

Additional cubby items - WINTER

- One full-body snow suit
- One pair water-resistant snow boots
- One hat or balaclava
- One pair water-resistant mittens (unless your child can put on his or her 5-finger gloves independently)

January 2020 Newsletter

Additional cubby items - SUMMER

- One swimsuit
- One pair water shoes
- One towel
- One sun hat

NAP ITEMS

Have your child practice packing his or her nap bag at home. Can he or she do this completely without your help? If not, try different items.

Items which your child cannot pack independently will be sent home with a note (Usually, this is because a blanket or pillow is simply too large for the bag).

Suggested Nap Items: one crib sheet, one small blanket, one very small pillow OR one small stuffed animal to snuggle.

LUNCH ITEMS

As with the nap items, do a practice session packing up at home. Does your child know which items should go in the trash and which items go back into his or her lunchbox?

We will always help children to access their food, but try to send containers which small hands can open and close. It makes children feel good to know that they are in control of their situation!